

REMARKS

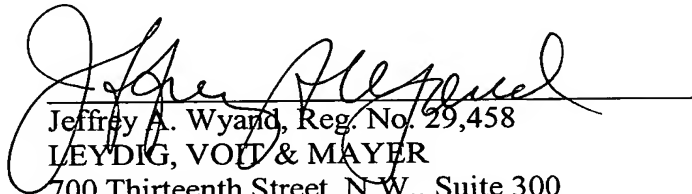
In response to the Office Action mailed February 16, 2005, Applicants amend their application and request reconsideration. In this Amendment claims 3 and 6 are cancelled and claims 13-15 are added so that claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7-15 are now pending.

Claims 4 and 5 were objected to on the grounds that the word "smoothed" is indefinite. The same word, appearing in other claims, was not objected to. In this Amendment the word "smoothed" is removed at the locations cited by the Examiner and the corresponding locations in other claims and replaced by the word "stabilized" in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion.

Claims 3, 7, 8, and 10 were objected to but not rejected over prior art. In this Amendment, claims 3, 7, and 10 are rewritten in independent form as amended claims 1, 7, and 10, respectively. In preparing these amended claims, all claims were reviewed and amended, as appropriate, to improve their form.

The foregoing amendment places the application in form for allowance so that all claims now pending should be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,


Jeffrey A. Wyand, Reg. No. 29,458
LEYDIG, VOIT & MAYER
700 Thirteenth Street, N.W., Suite 300
Washington, DC 20005-3960
(202) 737-6770 (telephone)
(202) 737-6776 (facsimile)

Date: April 20 2005
JAW/tps